

## THINGS TO KNOW – IF YOU GO – IAPP ALBUQUERQUE 7-11, 2009

Here is some background information on the IAPP PANORAMIC PHOTO FIESTA!

It will make planning you're your trip to Albuquerque easy and enjoyable, so you can maximize your visit.

In addition to this IAPP Guide, we suggest you visit [www.balloonfiesta.com](http://www.balloonfiesta.com) and on the left hand side, download the 2008 Guest Guide PDF. It will answer all of your questions on the Balloon Fiesta, including a listing of things to see and do in the Albuquerque area. It will be updated with a 2009 version as we get closer to this year's event.

### BOOK EVERYTHING EARLY!

The IAPP Meetings will take place during one of the world's foremost ballooning events. It will not be easy to accommodate last minute people at this meeting. You are welcome to come at the last minute, but rooms and car rentals will be at a premium. Our goal is to educate attendees about the benefits of planning to register early.

### HOTEL BOOKING INFORMATION FOR THE BALLOON FIESTA:

The IAPP Convention Headquarters Hotel is the PLAZA INN, a centrally located hotel which will work well for this event. Check it out at [www.plazainnabq.com](http://www.plazainnabq.com)

During Balloon Fiesta this hotel charges over \$107.00 per room, right now you can get an advance booking on their website at \$88.00 per night for these dates. However, IAPP has negotiated a rate of \$70.00 per night for IAPP attendees. They will sell out the hotel during Balloon Fiesta. They will probably hold the room block at our special rate until August 15th. After that date we must start to release the rooms back to them. We cannot remind you enough - this is not a last minute conference. (You CAN come at the last minute, but everything will be considerably higher.)

**TO BOOK YOUR ROOM:** Phone the Plaza Inn toll-free at 1-800-237-1307 and ask for the reservation department. Tell them you would like to book a room at the IAPP Group Rate for October 7-11, 2009. Currently that rate is \$70.00 plus tax. They will take a credit card number to hold your room. It will not be charged until you check-in. If you cancel less than two weeks out, it will be charged for one night's stay. The two week rule is in play, as this is during Balloon Fiesta and rooms sell out quickly.

**COMPLIMENTARY BREAKFAST:** The hotel does a complimentary CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST and it was mentioned that it might be available earlier than normal during the Balloon Fiesta. Most people will miss this if they leave early for the fiesta, so we hope they will do it earlier. There is no guarantee on this.

They offer popcorn and evening refreshments as well. The services also include FREE Wireless Internet and a coin operated laundry facility.

The hotel overlooks the city and many of the rooms have views. It is less than one mile to downtown, three miles to Old Town and eight miles to Balloon Park. A car is needed to get to the Balloon Fiesta from any hotel you choose.

Please check out the hotel's website and review the amenities and neighborhood sections. Book now to know you will have a room at the IAPP Hotel!

**CAR RENTAL:** It is advised that attendees plan to travel in groups to save on car rentals. A car is needed to get to the places we plan to attend. There is no public transportation that will work with our schedule. Everything in Albuquerque is spread out – nothing is close by. A car is a must. If you already have friends attending this event, think about sharing a car with them. A check of car rentals on Feb. 5th on [www.expedia.com](http://www.expedia.com), shows rates as low as \$23.98 - \$26.98 per day with Thrifty Car rental. This price will increase as we get closer to the event.

**AIRFARE:** Several airlines serve Albuquerque. The airport code is ABQ. I would suggest doing a search for airfare on [www.expedia.com](http://www.expedia.com) and see which airlines offer non-stop flights. Don't forget that Southwest Airlines serves Albuquerque and you must go directly to their site at [www.southwest.com](http://www.southwest.com)

The dates of October 7-11, allow you to book airfare over a Saturday night and get a better rate.

**BALLOON FIESTA:** There is an admission charge of \$6.00 per person, per session. There are two sessions each day, a morning session and an evening session. Two general admission tickets are included with your registration. You can use them for either session you choose.

Parking is \$10.00 per car. And each person in the car must have an admission ticket.

The October 8<sup>th</sup> evening session is our VIP Gondola Club Experience night with the IAPP Group, and a ticket (valued at \$100.00) is included to this event! It includes a buffet dinner on-site and a VIP viewing area. Enjoy dinner with the group and then walk amongst the balloons for great photo opportunities. This is our premier activity during the Photo Fiesta and I encourage you not to miss it!

We think everyone should attend this evening session as a group on Thursday October 8, as a VIP Ticket (\$100.00) is included with your early registration. It would provide everyone with a feel for the Balloon Park, as we would leave at 4 PM to get there. So it would still be daylight at that time. This advance trip will give you a great orientation to this 360 acre facility.

When you return to the balloon park for the optional morning sessions, remember they begin early and it is advised that you leave as early as 5 AM to get there in time.

Each morning or evening session after our group session on the 8<sup>th</sup>, is entirely OPTIONAL. We would suggest at least two visits in the morning to see the balloons. Especially on the Saturday and Sunday morning mass ascensions, when 700 balloons take off in an hour and a half. It is quite a sight and makes for great panoramic photos. Again, you will receive two general admission tickets with your registration, so go back again at least twice during your stay.

There will be a total of 7 opportunities to attend the fiesta with the current schedule. You should attend at least three times. Tickets for three visits are included with your package.

We also suggest going once without cameras and seeing it with your own eyes!

IAPP Educational sessions are planned in-between these morning and evening Balloon Fiesta events, so you won't miss anything, even if you do both! We have allowed some rest and travel time in between sessions. Getting up at 4:30 AM will put people to sleep in the afternoon. We have taken this into account. There will be time to rest in between events. And time to get from the balloon park back to the hotel for sessions.

**SANDIA TRAM and LUNCH:** On Saturday October 11<sup>th</sup>, we plan to take the Sandia Tram up to the mountain-top and enjoy lunch. This is included in your registration. This will get us out to the mountains for some panoramic photos in the midst of the fall colors and provide a fun activity. Don't forget your panoramic cameras!

**OTHER ATTRACTIONS:** There are many places close by. Santa Fe is an hour's drive away. Taos is further down the road. White Sands and Bandelier National Parks are close by. While we are doing the IAPP Meeting we will focus our time and energy on the Balloon Fiesta. Everything else, members can plan and do on their own. The Balloon Fiesta Guide has two pages listing nearby attractions, so you can plan your extra time in New Mexico.

**LATE BOOKING FEE/ONSITE REGISTRATION - \$60.00 extra.** This fee is being charged as we might have a problem getting the VIP Gondola Tickets at the last minute. There is a possibility those tickets might be sold out and in this case we would give you a regular admission ticket for that day. This is something that might be out of our control and we cannot stress enough – make your reservations early to avoid disappointment! Don't miss our VIP Night on the 8<sup>th</sup>!

**SPOUSE/COMPANION RATES** include all IAPP ticketed events for the Balloon Fiesta and Sandia Tram Ride/Lunch. A separate spouse program has not been designed as they are getting the same tickets as everyone else. Since we have a very full schedule, we decided to not have another event just for spouses/companions. Spouse/companions are welcome to attend the IAPP Sessions on a space available basis, due to limited seating at the hotel.

This is more of a trip/event than a meeting/conference. Hence the Photo Fiesta name, not to be confused with our Conference which takes places every 18 months.

The current schedule will give us 12 IAPP Sessions. If you would like to be considered as a speaker, please contact Everen T. Brown at [panoramic@everent.com](mailto:panoramic@everent.com) Sponsors are also encouraged to contact Brown and learn how to get involved with this exciting event!

This pdf file will be updated when we learn more, so check back every few months.

See you in ALBUQUERQUE!